



SFA Spotlight - September 2016

Welcome to our newsletter! Please be on the lookout for this newsletter every month as a way to keep you more involved and engaged with information important to the SFA community.

Please be sure to include sfainfo@curesarcoma.org in your address book. If you do not wish to receive this email on a monthly basis, please [contact us](#).



Medical Innovation Provides Hope to Pediatric Sarcoma Patients

This post was written by Bert E. Thomas IV, PhD, MBA, CEO of the Sarcoma Foundation of America.

As I write this blog, we find ourselves in the midst of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, a time to educate the public about the realities of childhood cancer and to draw attention to the need for more pediatric cancer research. For the Sarcoma Foundation of America, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month is also a time to remind everyone that sarcomas are not just a cancer of adults, but also of children and young adults. Sarcomas account for 15 - 20% of all childhood cancers, a number that is far too large. Unfortunately, there has been very little hope for many children with sarcoma who rely on therapies approved more than 30 years ago to treat their disease.

But I believe that there is now cause for HOPE! And that hope comes in the form of innovative sarcoma research - the type that the Sarcoma Foundation of America funds every year.

[Read more...](#)

Honor the Kids and Teens Fighting Sarcoma Today

September means back to school for many. For us at the Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA), it also means bringing awareness to the



kids and teens fighting Sarcoma. You see, September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Did you know that TWENTY percent of all pediatric cancers are Sarcomas?

As part of this month's Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, honor the kids and teens in the fight by supporting SFA today.

[Read more...](#)

We Still Need Your Help! Advocate for the Childhood Cancer STAR Act

We need your help! Time is running out for Congress to take up **The Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research (STAR) Act**.

The STAR Act would expand opportunities for childhood cancer research, improve efforts to identify and track childhood cancer incidences, enhance the quality of life for childhood cancer survivors, and ensure publicly accessible expanded access policies that provide hope for patients who have run out of options.

[Read more...](#)

Childhood Cancer STAR ACT

Pass the #STARAct

- ★ Increase opportunities for childhood cancer research
- ★ Improve efforts to identify and track incidences
- ★ Enhance the quality of life for survivors
- ★ Ensure publicly accessible, expanded access to treatments for young patients who have run out of options

allianceforchildhoodcancer.org

Race to Cure Sarcoma Denver a Huge Success



The inaugural Race to Cure Sarcoma Denver, held on September 17, was a huge success! Nearly 600 runners and walkers attended, far surpassing the expected number of attendees for this first-time event. The spirit and energy of the participants and their teams was clearly evident through their t-shirts, costumes, and tents. The day, kicked off by Race to Cure Sarcoma Denver Chair and Denver City Council President Albus Brooks, brought the local sarcoma community together and generated awareness for this rare cancer.



Money raised through the Race to Cure Sarcoma Denver benefits research locally at the University of Colorado Cancer Center and nationally through the SFA's research grant program. Thank you to all of the participants and donors who generously gave to the Race to Cure Sarcoma Denver. The SFA also thanks Council President Brooks for his leadership as the Chair for the race.

A special thank you goes to our sponsors, whose support made the event possible: Lilly Oncology; Janssen Oncology; Select Sector SPDRs; FirstBank; Monty & Frank Kugeler; and Bank of Denver.

We look forward to fostering the sarcoma community in Denver and can't wait for

Patient Education Conferences Series "Ask the Experts"

Patients in three US cities have had the chance to hear from leading sarcoma doctors and researchers as a part of the SFA's expanded patient education conference series, "Ask the Experts." Patients, families, and caregivers have come together at Memorial Sloan Kettering, Duke Cancer Center and the UPMC Cancer Center in Pittsburgh, to discuss advances in treatment and developments in sarcoma research.



There are still three more opportunities in 2016 to take part in the educational conference series. Join us this Saturday, September 24, in [Miami](#). Conferences will be held in [Salt Lake City](#), and [Chicago](#) in October. There is no cost to attend the patient education conferences, but each person attending must register. More information and details on how to register can be found at <http://www.curesarcoma.org/education/sarcoma-education-conferences>.

Camino for a Cure



In August, Sarcoma Foundation of America board member Mina Brenneman set out on an amazing journey to trek the Camino de Santiago in Spain ("The Way of St. James"). The Camino de Santiago is a 500-mile pilgrimage route crossing Northern Spain from the Southwestern corner of France almost all the way to the Atlantic Ocean. Mina accomplished this difficult feat, arriving in Santiago on August 26, 2016.

Mina took on this challenge in honor of her late husband, David, who, as she put it, "battled an aggressive form of sarcoma – cancer of the soft/connective tissues – with courage, dignity, and infinite love for his family."

Not only did Mina trek the Camino de Santiago in 20 days, she also raised over \$12,000 for the Sarcoma Foundation of America in the process.

You can learn more about Mina's efforts at <https://www.crowdrise.com/camino-for-a-cure>.



Celebrating the Life of Steve Byrne

The following story comes to us from EllaMae Byrne. EllaMae and her family recently hosted the 7th annual fundraiser in honor of her son, Steve.



A huge thank you to everyone who came out to Celebrating the Life of Steve Byrne 7th Annual Fundraiser on September 10. Guests enjoyed a buffet dinner along with live entertainment and dancing. We had a Chinese Auction, a sports memorabilia raffle, and we gave away a few door prizes. Our grand prize raffle of a gift card for Southwest Airlines donated by the family and friends of a dear friend in memory of her son. Our son Steve lost his battle to Clear Cell Sarcoma on August 12, 2008. He was 30 years old and had just become a daddy on July 18, 2008. We're hoping through research a cure and/or treatment can be found for this horrible disease.

Share Your Sarcoma Story



If you or a loved one has been impacted by sarcoma, we encourage you to share your story. Sharing your story can be such an inspiration to others who are dealing with sarcoma in their own lives and remind us all of the urgency to find better treatments in order to make an impact on the devastation that sarcoma brings. Let your experiences help others become involved in raising awareness!

To share your story, visit <http://www.curesarcoma.org/get-involved/share-story/>.

Upcoming Events

Check our [Upcoming Events section](#) on our website frequently for more ways to get involved.

Learn more about events like the [3rd Annual STL](#)

[Cure Sarcoma 6K Run/Walk](#), to be held on October 9, 2016, the [Race to Cure Sarcoma Chicago](#), to be held on October 29, 2016, and the [Race to Cure Sarcoma Philadelphia](#), to be held on October 30, 2016.

Interested in getting involved? [Please let us know.](#)

**Make a Difference
GET INVOLVED**



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